GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
ENVIRONMENT, FORESTS AND CLIMATE CHANGE
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:62
ANSWERED ON:07.02.2017
Human-Animal Conflicts
George Shri (Adv.) Joice;Teacher Smt. P.K.Sreemathi

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT, FORESTS AND CLIMATE CHANGE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of human-animal conflicts including loss of human lives and damage to crops by wild animals reported in various parts of the country during the last three years and the current year, State-wise;
(b) whether the Project Tiger and Project Elephant Authorities have submitted their reports on human casualties and if so, the details thereof, State-wise including Kerala;
(c) whether any mechanism exists to reduce man-animal conflicts and if so, the details thereof; and
(d) the steps taken by the Government to protect the natural habitat so that man and animal can live in harmony?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) FOR ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE
(SHRI ANIL MADHAV DAVE)

(a), (b), (c) and (d) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

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STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a), (b), (c) and (d) OF THE LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. *62 REGARDING "HUMAN-ANIMAL CONFLICTS" BY ADV. JOICE GEORGE AND SHRIMATI P.K. SREEMATHI TEACHER DUE FOR REPLY ON 07.02.2017.

(a)Incidence of human-animal conflict and death due to such conflict are reported in various parts of the country from time to time. However, as the management of forest and wildlife is the mandate of State Governments, State-wise and year-wise data of such incidents are not collated in the Ministry.

(b)As per the report of Project Tiger and Project Elephant, state-wise details of human casualty/ death, including Kerala during last three years is given in Annexure-I and II.

(c)The management of human-animal conflict is handled by State Government as per Rules, Guidelines in vogue. Some of the mechanisms in mitigation of human animal conflict include :

i. Provisions provided under Section 11 of the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972, inter-alia, empowering the Chief Wildlife Warden and authorised officer to take necessary steps to handle problematic wild animals.
ii. Standard Operating Procedures (SOP)/ guidelines for management of major problematic animals like tiger, elephant, leopard, rhino etc are being used by the respective state governments.
iii. Construction/erecting of physical barriers, such as barbed wire fence, solar powered electric fence, bio-fencing using cactus, boundary wall etc. to prevent the entry of wild animals into crop field.
iv. Improvement of wildlife habitats by augmenting the availability of food and water in forest areas to reduce the entry of animals from forest to human habitations.
v. The Ministry has issued guidelines in context of human-wildlife conflict to the Chief Wildlife Wardens of all the State Governments/Union Territory Administrations dated 24th December, 2014 and 1st June, 2015. The Ministry has specifically sought proposal from States/UTs, after objective assessment of the situation, details of the areas in which it is essential to reduce the over-population of wild animals for specified period.

(d)The important steps taken by the Central/State Governments for improvement of natural habitat of wild animals includes:
i. A network of Protected Areas namely viz., national park, Sanctuaries, Conservation Reserves and Community Reserving covering important wildlife habitat have been created all over the country under the provisions of the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972 to conserve wild animals and their habitats.
ii. Financial assistance is provided to the State/Union Territory governments under the Centrally Sponsored Schemes of 'Integrated Development of Wildlife Habitats', 'Project Tiger' and 'Project Elephant' for providing better protection to wildlife, and improvement of its habitats.

iii. The Ministry, with financial assistance from Ad-hoc Compensatory Afforestation Fund Management and Planning Authority (CAMPA), has formulated a scheme to provide assistance to the States for 'Augmentation of Fodder and Water in Protected Areas/Forest Areas', aimed at improving habitat in the areas by making provision for augmenting grass, fodder and water to the wild herbivores.
iv. The Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972 provides regulatory functions for taking up activities in National Parks and Sanctuaries to protect the wildlife habitats.

v. Payment of ex-gratia amount to victims of wild animal attack is provided with a view to reduce retaliatory killings.
vi. Periodic awareness campaigns to sensitize guide and advise the general public on man-animal conflict, including dissemination of information through various forms of media.
vii. Financial assistance is provided under Centrally Sponsored Scheme (CSS) of Integrated Development of Wildlife Habitats (IDWH) and Project Tiger for voluntary relocation of villages from within Protected Areas. This helps in moving people away from wildlife rich habitats and thus reducing conflict situations.

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